

## IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

1-21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) A method for performing a symbolic task operation on a collection, comprising:

receiving a request from a request originator to perform a collection processing operation on a collection reference expression;

performing the collection processing operation on the collection; and

returning results of the collection processing operation to the request originator;

wherein the request includes a symbolic task name and a collection reference expression, and wherein the collection includes collection specifier information and collection content information.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein performing the collection processing operation includes expanding the collection reference into a list of particular individual collections.

24. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein performing the collection processing operation includes expanding the collection reference into a list of job triplets including an individual collection name, a computing platform name, and a processing dependency visit order value.

25. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein performing the collection processing operation includes maintaining a proper execution ordering among collection symbolic job requests and lists of expanded job triplets.

26. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein performing the collection processing operation includes expanding a first-level symbolic task name into a sequence of second-level task part statements.

27. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein performing the collection processing operation includes dynamically calculating a set of detailed executable commands.

28. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein performing the collection processing operation includes executing platform-dependent computing commands.

29. (New) A system for performing symbolic task operations on collections, including:

a processor; and

a memory coupled with the processor, wherein the memory is configured to provide the

processor with instructions which when executed cause the processor to:

receive a request from a request originator to perform a collection processing operation on a collection reference expression,

perform the collection processing operation on the collection reference, and

return results of the collection processing operation to the request originator;

wherein the request includes a symbolic task name and a collection reference expression, and wherein the collection includes collection specifier information and collection content information.

30. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein performing the collection processing operation includes expanding the collection reference into a list of particular individual collections.

31. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein performing the collection processing operation includes expanding the collection reference into a list of job triplets including an individual collection name, a computing platform name, and a processing dependency visit order value.

32. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein performing the collection processing operation includes maintaining a proper execution ordering among collection symbolic job requests and lists of expanded job triplets.

33. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein performing the collection processing operation includes expanding a first-level symbolic task name into a sequence of second-level task part statements.

34. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein performing the collection processing operation includes dynamically calculating a set of detailed executable commands.

35. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein performing the collection processing operation includes executing platform-dependent computing commands.

36. (New) A computer program product for performing a symbolic task operation on a collection, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

receiving a request from a request originator to perform a collection processing operation on a collection reference expression;

performing the collection processing operation on the collection reference; and

returning results of the collection processing operation to the request originator;

wherein the request includes a symbolic task name and a collection reference expression, and wherein the collection includes collection specifier information and collection content information.

37. (New) The computer product of claim 36, wherein performing the collection processing operation includes expanding the collection reference into a list of particular individual collections.

38. (New) The computer product of claim 36, wherein performing the collection processing operation includes expanding the collection reference into a list of job triplets including an individual collection name, a computing platform name, and a processing dependency visit order value.

39. (New) The computer product of claim 36, wherein performing the collection processing operation includes maintaining a proper execution ordering among collection symbolic job requests and lists of expanded job triplets.

40. (New) The computer product of claim 36, wherein performing the collection processing operation includes expanding a first-level symbolic task name into a sequence of second-level task part statements.

41. (New) The computer product of claim 36, wherein performing the collection processing operation includes dynamically calculating a set of detailed executable commands.

42. (New) The computer product of claim 36, wherein performing the collection processing operation includes executing platform-dependent computing commands.